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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,410	02/13/2004	Barbara J. Swaab	66163-0003	7767

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EXAMINER

MENDIRATTA, VISHU K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3711

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,410

Applicant(s)

SWAAB ET AL.

Examiner

Vishu K. Mendiratta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 24-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 24-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11,14,24-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slade (6631905).



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Claims 1-9,14,25-27: Slade teaches a game having a playing surface (12) as a mat (5:53) illustrating bodily poses (13) and titles (each space 13 as shown in Fig.1, includes written information as can be seen in the figure), a plurality of cards (20) having top faces depicting bodily poses (5:51-54, 6:63-65), and a random selection device (16) having numbers and actions (6:44-53).

The only differences between applicant's invention and cited reference reside in the meaning and information conveyed by the printed matter ex. Parte Breslow 192 USPQ 431.

For example a picture of a person in standing position can be interpreted as a yoga pose.

One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have suggested using bodily poses on game board to attract potential customers.

Claim 10: Applicant may note that a spinner is an art recognized alternative random device and used in place of other devices such as dice.

Claim 11: Random device "actions including" indicates at rules for playing and do not further limit apparatus in the claim.

3. Claim 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slade.

Slade teaches all limitations except that it does not teach spinner as a random device.

A spinner is an art recognized alternative random device and used in place of other devices such as dice. In order to attract potential players it would have been obvious to provide a spinner in place of dice. Spinners have the same function as dice. One of

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ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have suggested using a spinner in place of dice to accomplish same function.

4. Claim 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slade.

Slade teaches all limitations except that it does not expressly teach device actions including as indicated by the applicant's claim. Assuming that the applicant intends print such indicia on the random device, the only difference between the cited reference and the claimed random device resides in the meaning and information conveyed by the printed matter and not considered patentable Ex. Parte Breslow 192 USPQ 431. For example combination of number indicia and the color indicia on the cited reference dice may be interpreted directing actions as claimed. One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have suggested printing indicia for actions on random device.

5. Claims 12-13, 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slade in view of Walker (D411919).

Slade teaches all limitations except that it does not teach a carrier for the game board. Walker teaches a carrier with a strap (Fig.4) for carrying the game board. Game boards are known to be carried by people during travel and in order to secure the game board it has been a common practice to use carriers and placing game board sin carriers. One of ordinary skill I art at the time the invention was made would have provided carriers for securing game boards.

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With respect to a cylindrical configuration, such features are personnel preferences and not critical to the invention. One of ordinary skill in art would have suggested modifying the shape of the carrying bag according to their preference.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishu K. Mendiratta whose telephone number is (571) 272-4426. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'V' followed by a cursive 'K' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Vishu K Mendiratta
Primary Examiner
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VKM
May 8, 2006